

California State Senate

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California Career Pathways Trust

The Career Pathways Trust (CPT) is a **\$250 million appropriation** in the 2013-14 Budget Act to fund ***competitive grants for high schools, community colleges and their business partners*** to create pathways to careers in high-need and high-growth economic sectors. Grants will be available over a three-year period, and may be spent by grantees through 2018.

Following years of cuts to education programs and career education in particular, Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg proposed and won this significant new commitment to preparing students for the jobs of the future.

The goal of the CPT is to build ***stronger connections between businesses, California schools and community colleges*** to better prepare our students for the 21st century workplace. The CPT addresses two pressing problems in California's education system:

- **Skills Gap.** California's unemployment rate is nearly 10%, yet employers in the state face a shortage of skilled workers in occupations requiring scientific, technical, engineering or math (STEM) skills, which are projected to be the fastest growing occupations in the next decade. There is a gap between the skills and capacities acquired in school and those most in need in the workplace.
- **High Dropout Rate.** Statewide, almost a quarter of new ninth-graders drop out before graduating. Many who do finish high school lack the academic and technical readiness to succeed in college and career, and require remedial education in college. Pathway programs that engage students in

real-world work have been shown to increase academic success and persistence in school.

Administered by the California Department of Education, the CPT will improve educational achievement and workplace readiness of our students by placing a greater emphasis on career-based learning as a central mission of public education in California.

Many “linked learning” and CTE programs operating in California today have demonstrated improvement in the future prospects of their graduates. These programs, however, have had limited success in attracting meaningful business support, and rely on minimal state appropriations that have experienced sharp cuts in recent years.

The CPT provides substantial new incentives to create and strengthen education-business partnerships that provide students with relevant, engaging, applied education, including opportunities for work-based learning (ie apprenticeship or internship). Eligible grant activities/expenditures include:

- Work-based learning specialists who can act as brokers between businesses and schools/colleges seeking placements for students.
- Creation of regional career pathway partnerships involving businesses, schools and colleges.
- Integration of academic and career-based learning, with a focus on career pathways in job-rich economic sectors.

The California Department of Education expects to issue a “request for applications” (*RFA*) to potential applicants in January, 2014.

School districts, colleges and their business partners are encouraged to begin planning for this opportunity now.